Press release

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Met Office considers CABE report

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At the invitation of the Met Office, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) have completed a review of the individual designs produced by the two consortia bidding to build and operate the Met Office's new home in Exeter. The Met Office has now received CABE's review reports and will take these into consideration when evaluating the bidders' tenders.

Although architecture is perhaps the most visible statement the project will make, it is only one element of a complex set of requirements the Met Office has challenged the two consortia to deliver. The Met Office will consider the design of the building alongside many other aspects of the proposals such as the interior design, the support services offered over 15 years, and technical ability to successfully deliver the project.

The Met Office's Relocation Director, Steve Noyes, said: "Whilst it is clear that both designs are different, each have strengths in some areas and weaknesses in others. However when considered overall I am very pleased with the proposals and believe that both designs will meet our requirements. I am grateful for the independent view offered by CABE but it cannot be the only criteria on which we base our decision as to which bidder will deliver the best overall solution."

A decision announcing the preferred bidder for the contract is likely later in May.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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